

(FRONTISPIECE.)

Stand at ease.

Attention.



Shoulder Arms.



Order Arms.

(FRONTISPIECE.)

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Shoulder Arms.



Order Arms.

H. G. Mitchell & Nelson *Army*
THE
SOLDIERS COMPANION,
OR
NEW MANUAL AND PLATOON EXERCISE:
EXHIBITED BY
FIFTY-FOUR FIGURES,
IN PROPER POSITIONS,
WITH
AN EXPLANATION TO EACH FIGURE.

INTENDED FOR THE USE OF

The Loyal Volunteers, and every true-born Briton, now called upon by His Majesty, from the Age of Seventeen to Fifty-Five, to facilitate them in the Knowledge of the Use of Arms at this most important Crisis, when their Country is threatened with Invasion by a most desperate and daring Usurper.

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SOLDIERS COMPANION

OR

NEW MANUAL AND PLATOON EXERCISES



AN EXPLANATION OF THE

The first part of the book contains a description of the various parts of the soldier's uniform, and a list of the different ranks and positions in the army. The second part contains a description of the different kinds of arms and accoutrements used by the soldier, and a list of the different kinds of exercises which he is required to perform. The third part contains a description of the different kinds of marches and evolutions which he is required to perform, and a list of the different kinds of signals which he is required to use.

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NEW MANUAL EXERCISE.

STAND AT EASE, as Figure 1.

ATTENTION, - - - as Figure 2.

SHOULDER ARMS, as Figure 3.

IN this Position, the Soldier under Arms should appear equally square with his Shoulders and Body to the Front; his Heels to be in a line and closed; his Knees strait; (not stiff;) his Toes turned out, and forming an Angle of about sixty Degrees; his Arms to hang near his Body; his Hand flat against his Thigh; his Thumb to touch the Seam of his Breeches; his Elbows kept close to his Side; his Body and Head upright; the Head turned neither Way; the *Eyes only* looking to the right. The Firelock must rest full in his left Hand, the Thumb only to appear in Front; it must be kept steady and firm against the Hollow of his Shoulder, his Wrist turned out a little; and the Butt as low as the Arm will easily permit; the fore Part of it, a very little before the Front of the Thigh, the hind Part of it pressed against his Thigh.

(For the above Motions see the Frontispiece.)

ORDER

ORDER ARMS.

The Firelock to be brought to the Trail, by seizing it first just above the Swell (4), and then bring it down to the right Side, within Two Inches of the Ground (5); then drop the Butt on the Ground, and bring the Muzzle against the Hollow of the Right Shoulder, the Hand flat on the Sling (6).

(For the above Motions, see the Frontispiece.)

FIX BAYONETS.

Immediately at the Word *fix*, put the right Thumb as quick as possible behind the Barrel, and take fast hold of the Firelock (7); and, when the Word *Bayonets* is fully out, push it forward a little, right before the Breast; at the same Time drawing out the Bayonet with the left Hand (8) and fix it with the utmost Speed (9), *then return instantly to the Order (10), standing steady.*

SHOULDER

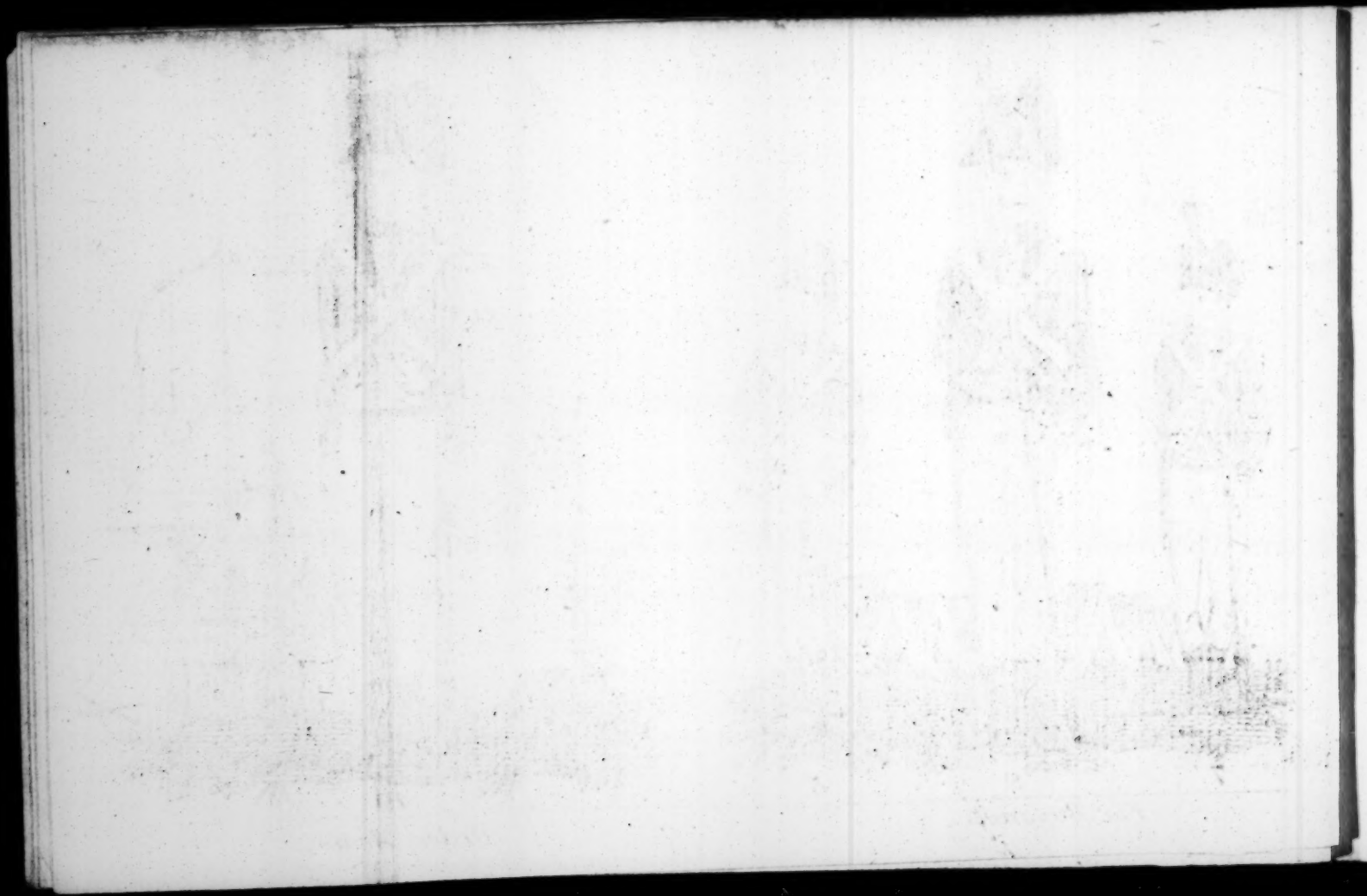
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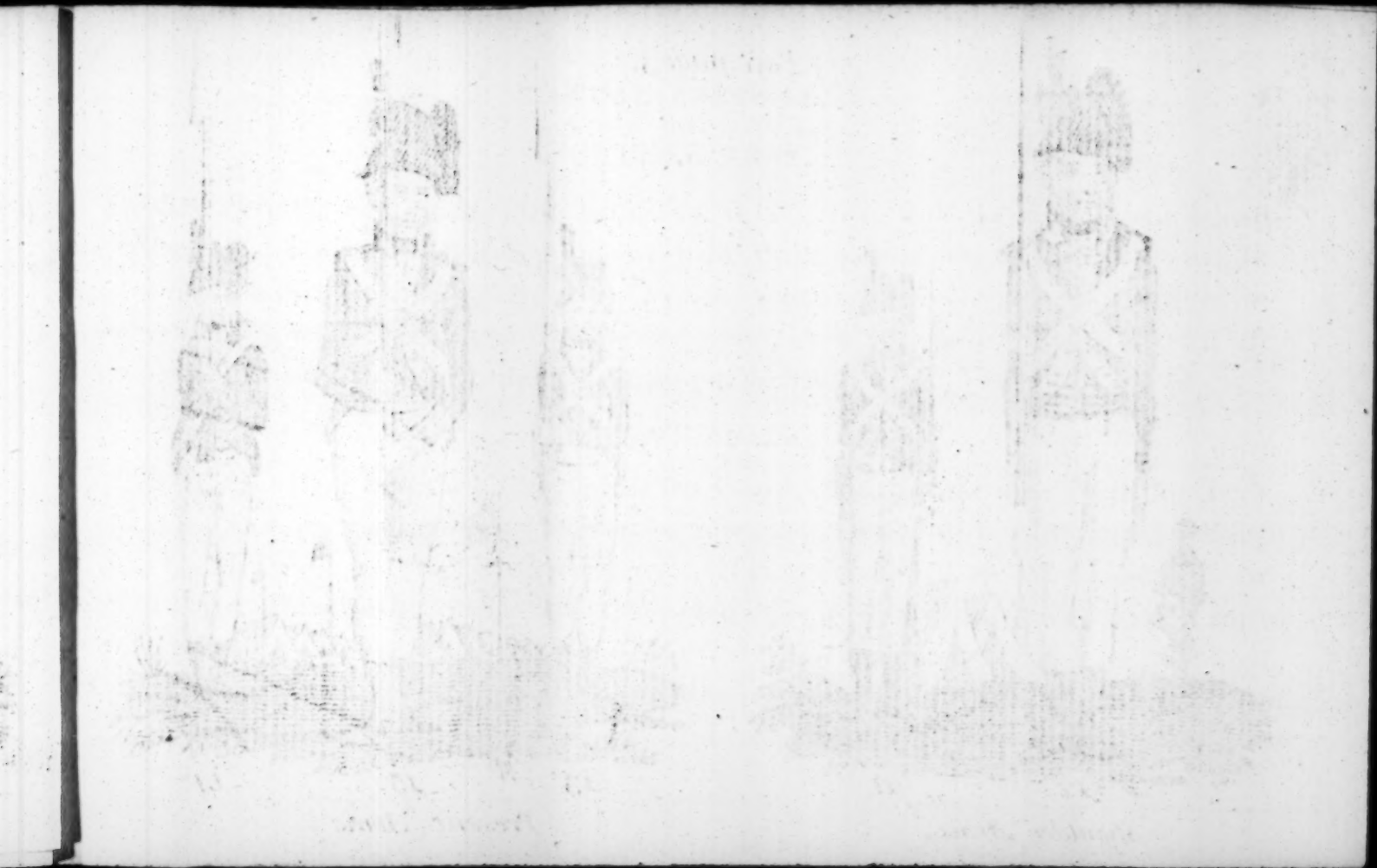


Fix Bayonets.



Order Arms.





(Face page 5.)



Shoulder Arms.



Present Arms.

MANUAL EXERCISE.

5

SHOULDER ARMS.

Immediately at the word *shoulder*, take fast hold of the Firelock, with the right Thumb behind the Barrel (11), as in fixing Bayonets; and, when the Word *Arms* is out, the Firelock must be thrown quick to the left Shoulder (12), in one Motion, without Appearance of Effort; the right Hand in so doing must not appear to cross the Body, but, as the Firelock is caught by the left Hand, the other must be immediately brought back to the Side.

PRESENT ARMS.

With the right Hand seize the Firelock under the Guard, turning at the same Time the Lock towards the Body, but not moving it from the Shoulder (13); then bring it to the *Poize*, catching it with the left Hand, the Fingers to extend along the Sling, the Wrist on the Guard, and the End of the left Thumb even with the Eyes (14); then bring it down quick, as low as the right Hand will admit with Ease (15), at the same Time the Hollow of the right Foot must be placed back against the left Heel; the Firelock must then be supported by the left Hand, the Body resting on the left Foot, and the Knees strait.

B

SHOULDER

MANUAL EXERCISE.

SHOULDER ARMS.

Turn the Firelock with the Right Wrist to the proper Position on the Shoulder, catching the Butt with the Left Hand (16), then bring the Right Hand down by the Side (17).

CHARGE BAYONETS.

The Firelock must be thrown from the Shoulder across the Body in one Motion (18) : this is called in some Regiments, *Porting Arms*, in others *preparing for the Charge*; the Lock is to be as high as the Breast, the Barrel to slant opposite the Point of the Left Shoulder, the Right Hand to grasp the Small of the Butt, and the Left the Piece at the Swell, both Thumbs to point towards the Muzzle. Then make a half Face to the Right, and bring down the Firelock nearly level (19), the Right Wrist touching the Hollow of the Thigh.

N. B. The first Motion of the *Charge* is the Position which the Soldier will either from the Shoulder, or after firing, take, in order to advance on an Enemy, whom it is intended to attack with fixed Bayonet; and the Word of Command for that Purpose is, *Prepare to Charge*. The second Position of the Charge is that which the Front Rank takes when arrived at a few Yards distance only from the Body to be attacked.

SHOULDER

(Face page 6.)



Shoulder Arms.



Charge Bayonets.

1



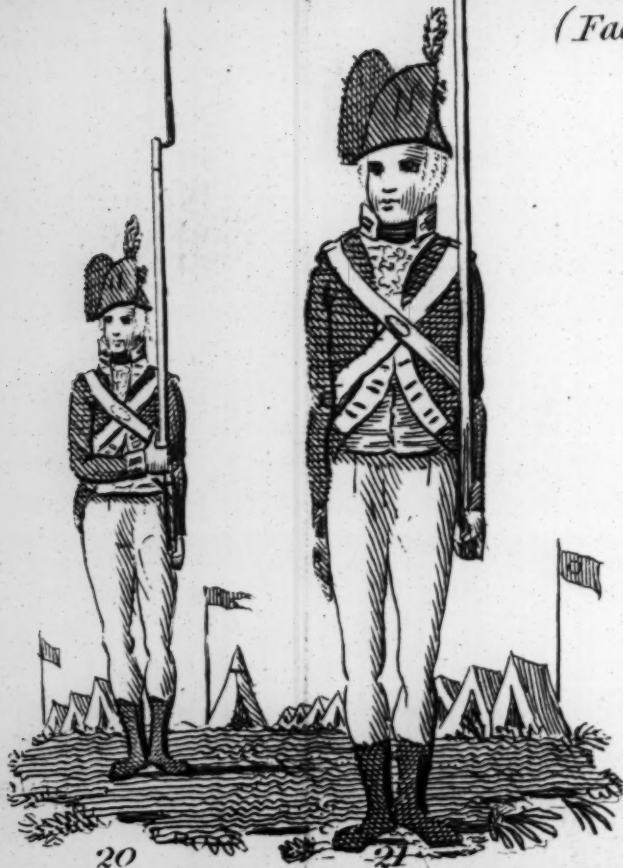
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(Face page 7.)



Shoulder Arms.



Support Arms.

MANUAL EXERCISE.

7

SHOULDER ARMS.

Face to the Front, and throw the Firelock into its proper Position on the Shoulder, by turning the Right Wrist, and catching the Butt with the Left Hand (20); then bring the Right Hand down briskly by the Side (21).

SUPPORT ARMS.

With the Right Hand seize the Firelock at the Swell of the Butt, under the Cock, keeping it close to the Side (22); then bring the Left Arm under the Cock and the Hand across the Breast, raising the Piece at the same Time about Three Inches (23); then bring the Right Hand down by the Side (24). *To carry Arms from the Support (25), the Motions are to be reversed.*

Note. Returning Bayonets is to be done from the Order, exactly in the same Manner as fixing them.

PLATOON

PLATOON EXERCISE,

AS TAUGHT AT THE DRILL.

PRIMING POSITION.

The priming Position, as *Front Rank*, is to hold the Firelock horizontally the Height of the Waistband of the Breeches (26); as *Centre Rank*, even with the Hip-bone (27); as *Rear Rank*, close under the Arm (28).

OPEN PANS.

Throw up the Steel with a strong Motion of the Right Arm, and keeping the Firelock steady in the Left Hand.

HANDLE

(Face page 8.)

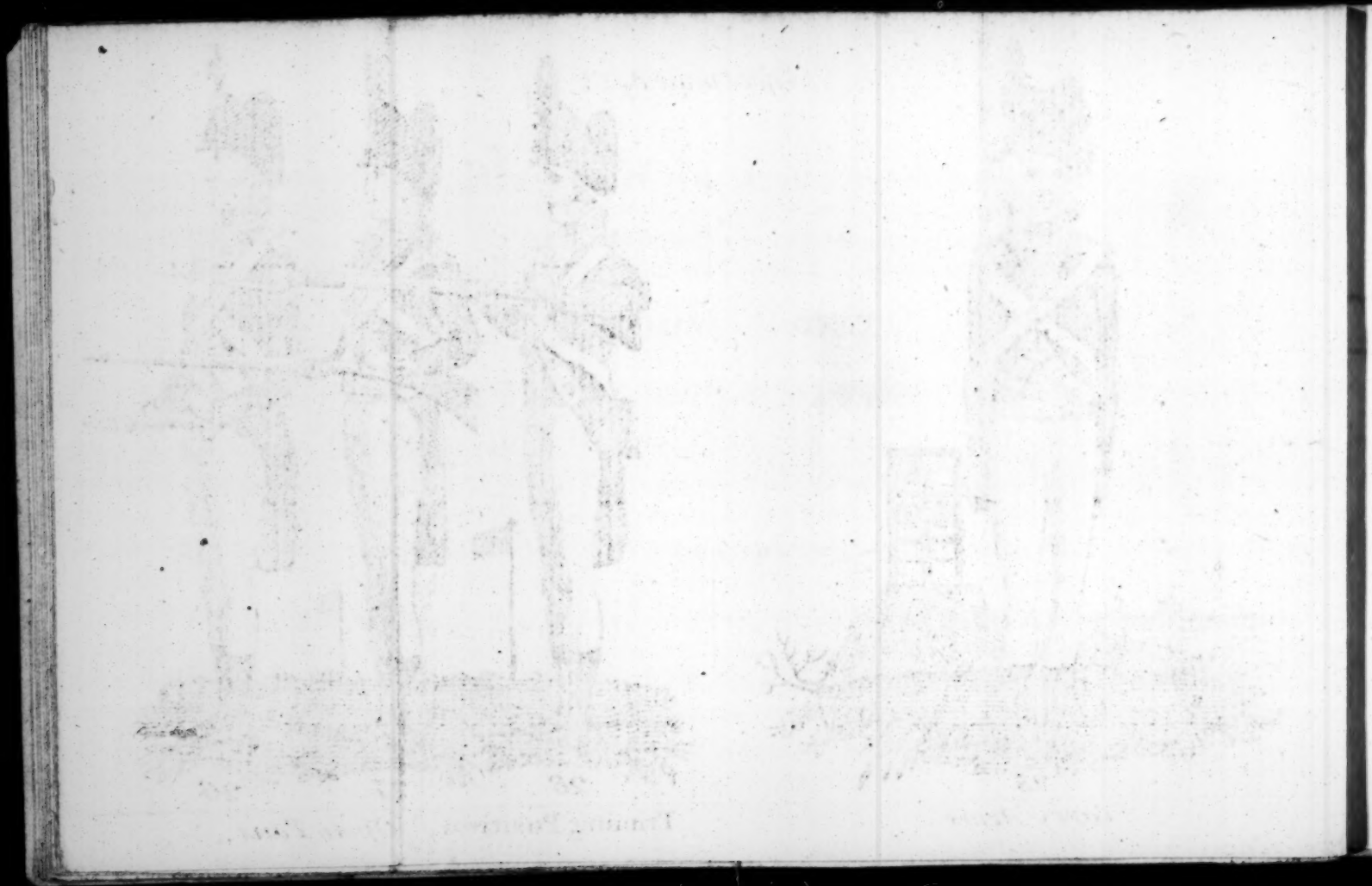


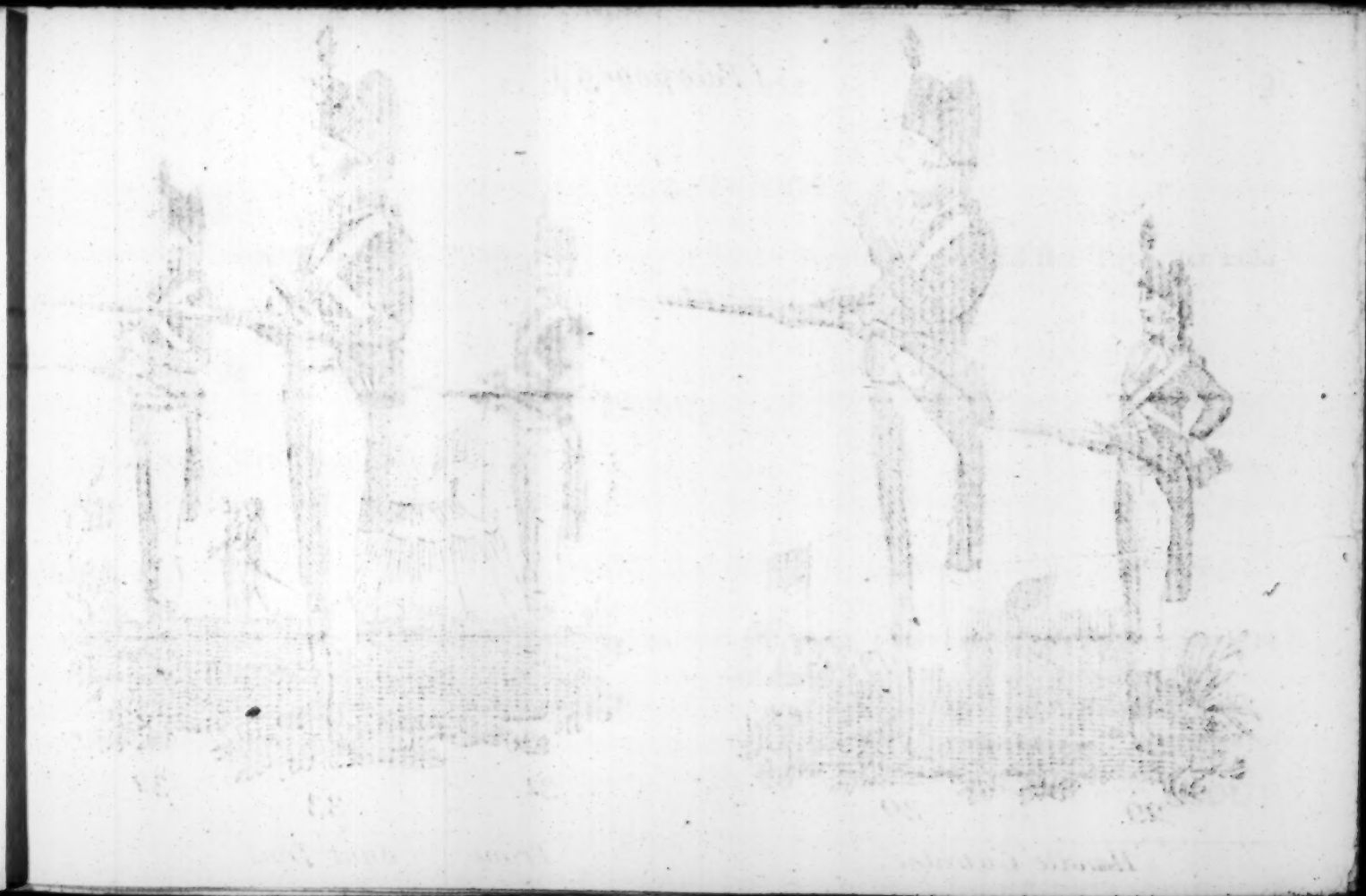
25
Carry Arms



28 27 26
Priming Position, Open Pans.

8





(Face page 9.)



29

30

Handle Cartridge.



31

33

32

Prime. Shut Pans.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

9

HANDLE CARTRIDGE.

Draw the Cartridge from the Pouch (29), bring it to the Mouth and bite off the Top, then hold it within Two Inches of the Mouth with the Fore Finger and Thumb (30).

PRIME.

Shake some Powder into the Pan (31).

SHUT PANS.

Shut the Pan with the Three Fingers (32), and with the same Three Fingers seize the Small of the Butt, holding the Cartridge between the Fore Finger and Thumb (33).

C

ABOUT

PLATOON EXERCISE.

ABOUT.

Face to the Left on both Heels, the Right Toe to point to the Front, the Body a little faced to the Left, at the same Time throwing up the Firelock (34).

SINK ARMS.

Bring the Firelock down to the Left Side, within Two Inches of the Ground, the Butt opposite to the Left Heel, the Piece a little sloped; and, with the Right Hand, steady the Muzzle.

LOAD.

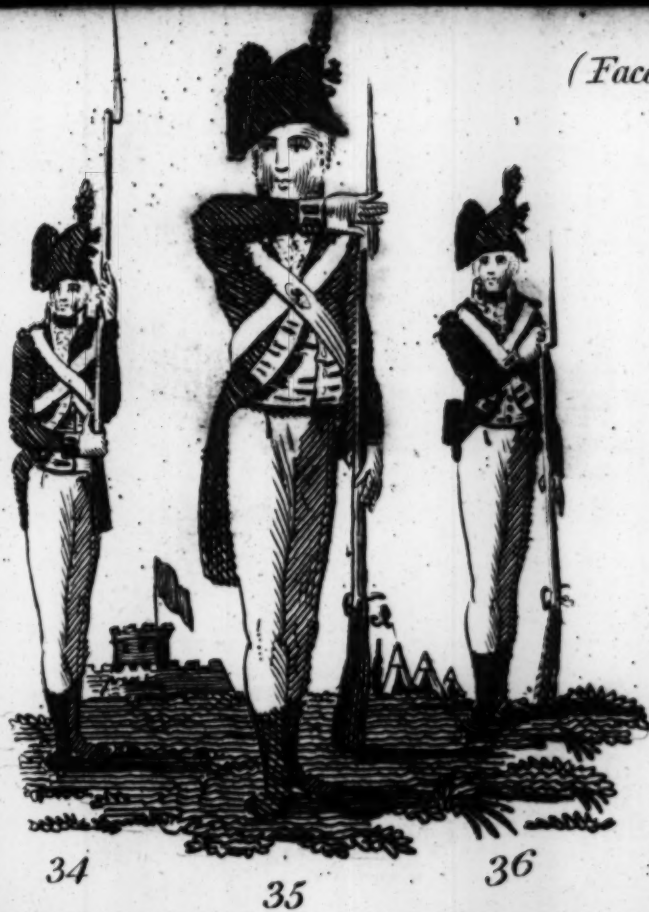
Shake the Powder into the Barrel (35), then put in the Paper and Ball, and immediately seize the Top of the Ramrod with the Thumb and Fore Finger (36).

DRAW RAMRODS.

Draw it half out, and seize it back-handed in the Middle (37); then draw it quite out and turn it with the Arm extended, holding it between the two Fore Fingers and Thumb, and immediately put it one Inch in the Barrel (38).

RAM

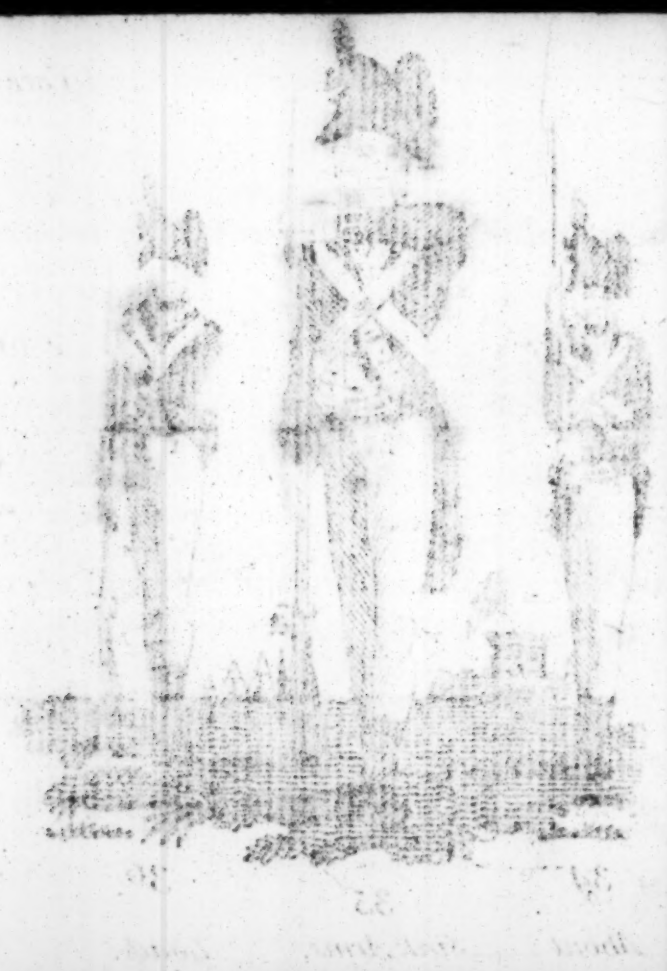
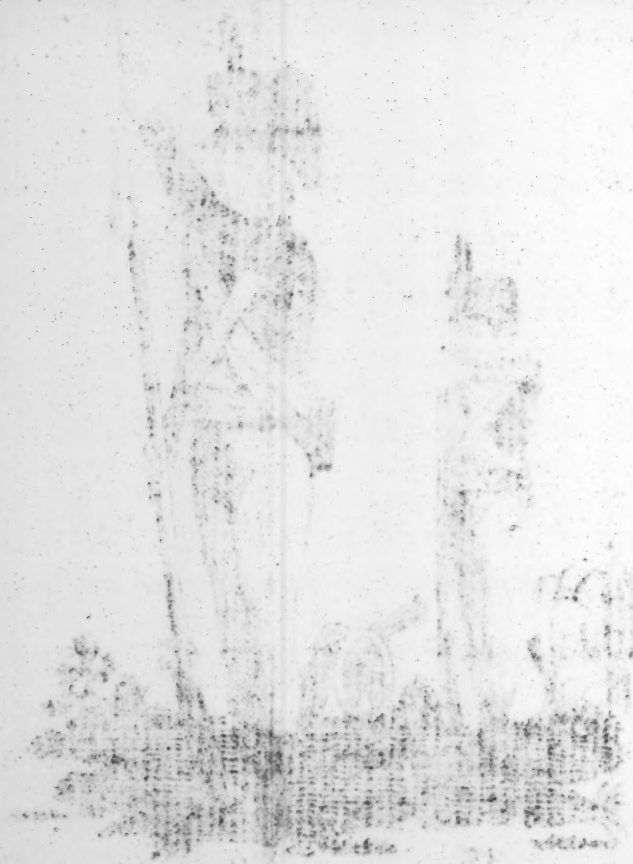
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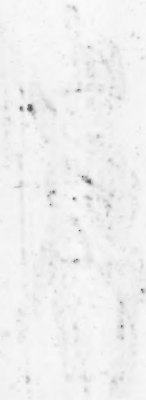


About — Sink Arms. Load.



Draw Ramrods.

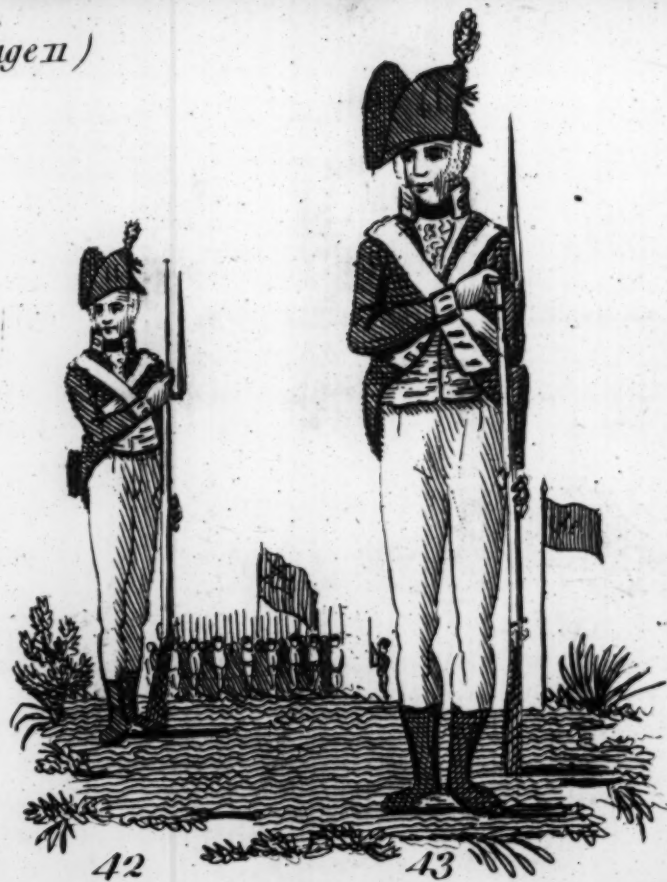




(Face page 11)



Ram down Cartridge .



Return Ramrods .

RAM DOWN CARTRIDGE.

Push down the Ramrod till the Fingers touch the Barrel (39), holding it in the Middle as before: then slip up the Fingers and Thumb within one Inch of the Top, without letting it fall any farther into the Barrel (40); then push the Cartridge down to the Bottom, striking it three very quick Strokes (41); immediately draw the Ramrod half out, and catch it back-handed as before; then draw it quite out, turning it briskly, and put it into the Loops (42), and force it down to the Bottom as quick as possible; then face to the Front, the Finger and Thumb holding the Top of the Ramrod (43); the Butt to be two Inches from the Ground.

The Time for the Motions of returning Ramrods is taken from the Flugel Man in Front, there being now no Word of Command for it.

SHOULDER

PLATOON EXERCISE.

SHOULDER ARMS.

Strike the Top of the Muzzle with the Right Hand to fix the Ramrod (44), and at the same Time throw it nimbly up to the Shoulder at one Motion (45).

Note. Though the Butts of the Firelocks are not permitted to come to the Ground in casting about, yet they are allowed to be rested while loading, but it must be without Noise and not discernible in Front.

READY.

Spring the Firelock briskly to the *Recover* (46), and instantly cock it.

PRESENT.—FIRE.

Slip the Left Hand along the Sling to the Swell of the Firelock, and bring it down to the *Present*, stepping back about six Inches with the Right Foot (47). After firing, drop the Firelock briskly to the Priming Position—Half-cock—Shut Pans—Shoulder Arms—Order Arms—Stand at Ease.

FIRING

(Face page 12.)



Shoulder.



Ready.—Present.—Fire.

1





(Face page 13.)



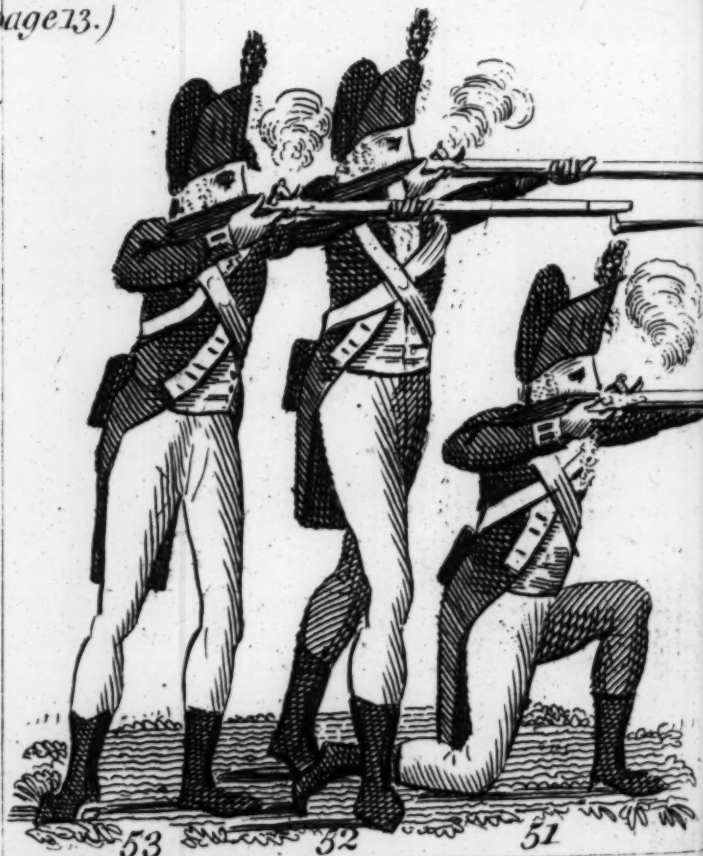
50

49

48

3 Ranks.

Ready



53

52

51

3 Ranks.

Present,—Fire.

FIRING IN THREE RANKS,
(FRONT RANK KNEELING.)

READY.

The Front Rank to bring the Firelock to the *Recover*, catching it in the Left Hand, and immediately sink down on the Right Knee; the Left Foot to be kept fast; the Butt of the Firelock at the same Moment to fall on the Ground, and instantly cock the Piece (48), holding it upright, and firm with the Left Hand between the Lock and Swell of the Stock; the Butt about 4 Inches to the Right of the Inside of the Left Foot, the Body strait, and the Head upright.

The Centre Rank spring the Firelock to the *Recover*: as soon as the Left Hand seizes the Firelock, raise the Right Elbow, placing the Thumb on the Cock, and cock the Piece by dropping the Elbow and forcing the Cock with the Thumb, stepping at the same Time with the right Foot a moderate Pace to the right, and keeping the left Foot fast; the Small of the Butt to be seized with the right Hand, and the Piece to be held upright, the Body strait, and the Head erect (49).

The Rear Rank recover and cock in the same Manner as the Centre Rank, stepping at the same Time to the right a full Pace, and then bringing the left Heel about 12 Inches before the Point of the right Foot; the Body to be kept square to the Front, and leaning rather forward (50).

D

PRESENT.

FIRING IN THREE RANKS.

PRESENT.

The Front Rank to bring the Firelock to the Present, by sliding the left Hand along the Sling to its full Extent, the right Hand at the same Time springing up the Piece by the Cock to the right Shoulder, so that the Head is not too low in taking Aim; the right Cheek to be close to the Butt, the Fore Finger on the Trigger, the left Eye shut, and looking along the Barrel with the right Eye from the Breech-pin to the Muzzle, and remaining steady (51).

The Centre Rank to present in the same Manner as the front Rank (52).

The Rear Rank to present in the same Manner (53).

FIRE.

The Front Rank pull the Trigger strong; and, as soon as fired, spring up nimbly on the Left Leg, and bring the Right Heel to the Hollow of the Left Foot; and at the same Time drop the Firelock to the Priming Position, half cock, and go on with the Loading Motions as before.

The Centre Rank, as soon as fired, bring the Firelock to the Priming Position, and at the same Time draw the Left Foot up to the Right; prime and load; and, immediately that the Firelock is thrown up to the Shoulder, the Men are to spring to the left again and cover their File Leaders.

The Rear Rank, after firing, prime and load; and, when the Firelock is brought up to the Shoulder, the Men are to spring to the left again.

[In firing with the front Rank *standing*, that Rank makes ready, &c. as specified in the article relative to the *platoon exercise*.]

PRIMING.

PRIMING AND LOADING QUICK.

Prime and Load.

1st. Bring the Firelock down in one brisk Motion to the priming Position, the Thumb of the Right Hand placed against the Steel; the Fingers clenched, and the Elbow a little turned out, so that the Wrist may be clear of the Cock.

2d. Open the Pan, by throwing up the Steel, with a strong Motion of the Right Arm, turning the Elbow in, and keeping the Firelock steady in the Left Hand.

3d. Bring your Hand round to the Pouch, and draw out the Cartridge.

The rest as before described, excepting that in the quick Loading all the Motions are to be done with as much Dispatch as possible; the Soldiers taking their Time from the Flugel-man in Front, for casting over and shouldering only.

OFFICERS.

OFFICERS, in giving Words of Command, as well in as out of the Ranks, are to stand perfectly steady, and in their proper Position; their Swords held firmly in the Full of the Right Hand, with the upper Part of the Blade resting against the Shoulder, the right Wrist against the Hip, and the Elbow drawn back.

In firing by Platoons, the Officers instead of giving the Words *Platoon, Make Ready, Present, Fire*, are to pronounce the Words short, as for instance, *toon, ready, present, fire*.

In firing by Platoons, or Divisions, the Officers commanding them are to step out one Pace on the Close of the *Preparative*, and Face to the Left towards their Men, they there stand perfectly steady till the last Part of the *General*, when they step back again into their proper Intervals, all at the same Time.—After a Division has fired, the Right Hand Man of it steps out one Pace, in Front of the Officer, but still keeping his own proper Front, and gives the Time for *casting about and shouldering*, after which he falls back again into his Place in the Front Rank.

The Fligel Man of a Battalion is also to keep his Front in giving the Time of Exercise.

In firing by grand divisions, the centre Officer falls back on the *Preparative* into the fourth rank, and is replaced by the covering Serjeant.

THE END.

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An Officer under Arms.

(Face page 16.)

Blade of Bay†

Socket of Bay†

Muzzle

Ramrod

Barrel

Sting

Swell

Pan & Cover

Breech pin

Flint

Cock

Guard

Trigger

Thumb piece

Small of Stock

Butt

Heel

Firelock explained.

8

